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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Seventh session
New York, 2-4 August 2017
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda

Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report containing the contributions of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda, which will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the operation and achievements of the regional committees and thematic groups.

Summary of the report

The report provides information on the contributions and achievements of the following eight regional committees and thematic groups: Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific; Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas; Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa; Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe; Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States; Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies; United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network; and United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Private Sector Network.

The reports of the regional committees and thematic groups contain information on their activities and achievements since the sixth session of the Committee of Experts, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, inclusive of the regional meetings and workshops held during the intersessional period. The reports

* E/C.20/2017/1.

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also provide an overview of the work of the regional committees, including their working and thematic groups, in the following areas: (a) sustainable development; (b) land administration and management; (c) disaster risk reduction; (d) fundamental geospatial data themes; (e) integration of statistical and geospatial information; (f) legal and policy frameworks; (g) regional and international collaboration and capacity development, including the Americas Caribbean Project and Asia-Pacific Geodetic Capacity-Building project of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management; (h) global geodetic reference frame; (i) priority issues and challenges; and (j) future plans and events.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Global geodetic reference frame

Global geodetic reference frame

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group on the global geodetic reference frame, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress made by the working group, including its transition to a subcommittee and the development of an implementation plan for the road map on the global geodetic reference frame.

Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/102, in which it commended the considerable efforts of the working group in preparing the road map on the global geodetic reference frame as a principle-based briefing document for Governments. The Committee of Experts welcomed the development of an implementation plan to ensure that the recommendations contained in the road map were linked to national policy developments in the area of geodesy. Recognizing the critical importance of an appropriate governance structure to effectively implement the road map, the Committee of Experts supported the establishment of a subcommittee on geodesy to provide stability and longer-term planning for the global geodetic reference frame and requested that the subcommittee determine its modalities and methods of work, including assuming the roles of the existing working group.

* E/C.20/2017/1.

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In its report, the working group, as the interim subcommittee on geodesy, provided an account of progress made on the development of an implementation plan for the road map, inclusive of the outreach and communication that has taken place. It also described the development of appropriate modalities, including terms of reference and methods of work, for the new subcommittee on geodesy and the interactions with each of the chairs of the five regional committees of the Committee of Experts in formulating the membership of the subcommittee.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Seventh session
New York, 2-4 August 2017
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe on behalf of its working group on global fundamental geospatial data themes. The report will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress made on identifying global fundamental geospatial data themes.

Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/103, in which it welcomed the report of the Regional Committee for Europe and its efforts to develop a draft minimum list of fundamental geospatial data themes for consideration by the Committee of Experts at its seventh session. The Committee of Experts affirmed the view of the working group on global fundamental geospatial data themes that national and regional initiatives related to fundamental geospatial data themes should be the basis for developing agreement on a set of global themes and noted the suggestions made to consider the need to clarify the notion of "fundamental data", including their definition, harmonization and prioritization at multiple spatial and temporal scales, and to define the role such data play.

In its report, the Regional Committee for Europe outlines the actions it has carried out to advance the work on the determination of fundamental geospatial data themes at the global level. It also describes its engagement with the other regional committees and their relevant working groups, the methodology used and the review

* E/C.20/2017/1.

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process it has undergone to produce a proposal for a minimum list of fundamental geospatial data themes. The report includes a proposed list of fundamental geospatial data themes for consideration by the Committee of Experts, a description of subsequent work needed to produce high-level descriptions of each theme proposed and a review of the connections to other activities of the Committee of Experts. It also includes recommendations for next steps the Committee of Experts should consider.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*
Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management

Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements, which will be available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and background documents and to express its views on the work of the working group, including the institutional arrangements framework, compendium of good practices and the guidelines and recommendations for national geospatial information management entities.

Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/104, in which it noted the report and background document prepared by the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements and by its three task teams. Recognizing the complexity and broad scope of the topic, and that there is no single universal solution or model that fits all countries, the Committee commended the working group for its considerable efforts in formulating indicators for national geospatial institutional arrangements. The Committee also encouraged the working group to use and promote good practice case studies to demonstrate the diversity of the institutional landscape, to continue its work in close consultation with the global geospatial community and to report its progress to the Bureau of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management prior to presenting it to the Committee at its next session.

In its report and associated background documents, the working group and its three task teams provide information on its recent activities, including supporting

* E/C.20/2017/1.

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the consultancy exercise conducted by the Secretariat and the preparation of five work packages and related deliverables. In the report, the working group also describes the methodologies and approaches to: (a) preparing national institutional arrangement guidelines and recommendations; (b) formulating the framework of structural and managerial instruments used to establish recommendations to evaluate or improve management structures across governments; and (c) identifying good practices and their applications across Member States. The institutional arrangements framework, good practices, guidelines and recommendations are presented for consideration by the Committee of Experts.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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New York, 2-4 August 2017
Item 8 of the provisional agenda*
Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report, prepared with the assistance of the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, on the legal and policy issues to be considered in developing a framework to support global geospatial information management in the public and private sectors, including issues related to authoritative data. The report will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and express its views on how to address legal and policy issues, including those which relate to authoritative data.

* E/C.20/2017/1.

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Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/105, in which it noted a number of legal and policy issues that confirmed the essential need for all legal and policy frameworks that could have an impact on geospatial information to be developed in partnership with the geospatial and legal communities and with regard to other related areas of work of the Committee. In this regard, the Committee of Experts welcomed the convening of the International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management in Kuala Lumpur on 18 and 19 October 2016, in collaboration with the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific.

In its report, prepared with the assistance of the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, the Secretariat updates the Committee of Experts on the issues that have an impact on the requisite legal and policy frameworks and on the outcomes of the International Forum. In the declaration issued at the Forum, participants called for the establishment of a working group to enable the global geospatial community to engage in discussions on policy and legal issues that could have an impact on the collection, licensing and use, privacy, provenance and accessibility of geospatial information. In the report, the Secretariat also describes the production of a new compendium on the licensing of geospatial information and updates the Committee of Experts on interactions with the International Bar Association.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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New York, 2-4 August 2017
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community prepared jointly by the Open Geospatial Consortium, technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization, and the International Hydrographic Organization. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the adoption and implementation of core geospatial standards.

Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/106, in which it welcomed feedback by Member States on their use of the "Guide to the role of standards in geospatial information management" and the "Technical compendium" documents on standards, as well as their experiences in their national implementation. The Committee of Experts noted that the Sustainable Development Goals were stimulating needs for new or modified geospatial standards, including with specific-domain working groups and the broader standards community, and encouraged Member States to review their standards and interoperability requirements in that regard and to consider how they could participate. The Committee of Experts also noted that there were enabling technologies, trends and standards in the geospatial industry that were creating possibilities for better measurement and monitoring of global efforts in sustainable development, and invited the standards organizations to provide regular updates on those developments.

* E/C.20/2017/1.

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The report also contains information on progress made in the initiatives and activities carried out by the international standards organizations in developing guidance for the use of geospatial standards to support the measurement and monitoring of global efforts in sustainable development and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*
Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, which will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the work of the Expert Group and on the way forward for the global geospatial information management community to actively contribute towards the development and implementation of the global statistical geospatial framework, in particular in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2020 round of population and housing censuses.

Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/107, in which it recognized the importance of the continuing work of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information. It reiterated that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2020 round of population censuses are important drivers for the integration of geospatial and statistical information in support of evidence-based decision-making across many sectors. The Committee agreed to the amended terms of reference of the Expert Group with regard to its composition and terms of office and adopted the five guiding principles, as referenced in the report of the Expert Group (see E/CN.3/2017/10), as the foundation of the global statistical geospatial framework. It looked forward to progress on the framework being reported to both the Statistical Commission and the Committee of Experts for consideration and adoption at their next sessions in 2017.

* E/C.20/2017/1.

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In its report, the Expert Group provides information on its recent activities and the preparation of specific country-level examples. The Expert Group also provides information on the endorsement of the framework (https://connections.unite.un.org/wikis/login) by the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session and the agreement of the Commission to the proposal that the mandate of the Expert Group be strengthened to become the overall coordination group for all activities in the area of statistical geospatial data integration.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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Item 11 of the provisional agenda*
Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management

Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the expert group on land administration and management, which will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and express its views on the way forward for the application of geospatial information to land administration and management.

Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/108, in which it agreed that a major function of the expert group was to address sustainable governance, data management and the adoption of institutional frameworks and technology in relation to land administration and management systems, as well as their linkages to the relevant aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee of Experts encouraged the expert group to address the issue of fit-for-purpose land and geospatial information required to support effective and efficient land administration and management in order to address the need to secure land and property rights for all. In endorsing the terms of reference of the expert group, the Committee of Experts encouraged it to engage and consult broadly when finalizing its work programme and requested that the expert group report on its progress to the Committee of Experts at its next session.

In its report, the expert group provides information on the considerations and outcomes of its meeting convened in Delft, the Netherlands, on 14 and 15 March 2017, in which it recognized the need to improve political awareness among and

* E/C.20/2017/1.

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guidance to Member States. The expert group also presents its work programme for the 2017-2018 biennium for endorsement by the Committee of Experts. The expert group indicates in its report that the work programme is focused on developing a global framework for land administration that captures key elements or principles essential for establishing a universal, efficient, effective and sustainable land administration system that will provide security of tenure and will allow for documenting, recording and recognizing the many people-to-land relationships in all their forms.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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Item 12 of the provisional agenda*
Geospatial information for sustainable development

Geospatial information for sustainable development

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, which will be available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and express its views on the progress of the Working Group in its efforts to provide support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/109, in which it welcomed the creation of the Working Group on Geospatial Information under the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. The Committee supported the terms of reference and composition of the Working Group, which includes members from all five of the Committee's regional committees. Recognizing the fact that the integration of geospatial information and statistical data is key to the development of a number of the global indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Committee agreed to focus all its supporting activities related to sustainable development through the Working Group. In order to ensure that the contribution of the global geospatial community is maintained and remains rigorous, the Committee requested that the Working Group provide annual status reports on its progress to the Committee.

In its report, the Working Group provides information on its activities to adequately and systematically address the issues of geographic location and alternative data sources and methodologies, including geospatial information and Earth observations, in the context of the global indicator framework. The Working

* E/C.20/2017/1.

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Group concluded that geospatial information is able to provide enabling methodologies and processes for the disaggregation of data. It observed that the disaggregation of national statistical data is considerably strengthened through the lens of geospatial information. The report includes the main outcomes of the second and third meetings of the Working Group, held in Mexico City in December 2016 and in Kunming, China, in May 2017, respectively.

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Item 13 of the provisional agenda*
Geospatial information and services for disasters

Geospatial information and services for disasters

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters, which will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and express its views on the progress of the working group and to endorse the strategic framework on geospatial information and services for disasters prepared by the working group.

Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/110, in which it welcomed the report of the working group, commended the considerable progress in developing and refining the draft strategic framework on geospatial information and services for disasters 2016-2030, and acknowledged the five priorities for action to ensure that the draft strategic framework was effectively implemented across the multiple levels of decision-making. The working group was also encouraged to continue working towards the completion of the draft strategic framework for consideration and adoption by the Committee of Experts.

In its report, the working group provides information on its activities during the intersessional period, including the convening of the International Forum on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters in Barbados in September 2016 and the interactions and presentations made at the annual meetings of the regional committees of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management. It also describes the global consultation exercise, the feedback and guidance received from Member States, key experts and organizations and how these were incorporated in the draft strategic framework. The final version of the strategic framework, as completed by the working group, is presented for endorsement by the Committee of Experts.

* E/C.20/2017/1.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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New York, 2-4 August 2017
Item 15 of the provisional agenda*
National geospatial data and information systems

National geospatial data and information systems

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report, prepared with the assistance of the World Bank Group, on new developments with regard to national geospatial data and information systems. The report will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on how the global geospatial information management community can actively contribute to the development of frameworks for national geospatial data and information systems for Member States.

Summary of the report

In its report, prepared with the assistance of the World Bank Group, the Secretariat informs the Committee of Experts on the joint efforts by the Statistics Division and the World Bank to explore and develop possible mechanisms for geospatial data, infrastructure and policies to be embedded more holistically within concessional financing, technical assistance and knowledge-sharing services and their subsequent implementation in developing countries. In the report, the Secretariat informs the Committee of the need for collaboration in developing an overarching geospatial framework that countries could reference when using geospatial information to develop national systems tailored to their own situations. The framework would include an action plan and road map on means for implementation, as well as elements such as the economic impact and value of geospatial information systems, investment needs and associated tools, guides and good practices.

* E/C.20/2017/1.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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Item 17 of the provisional agenda*
Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management

Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on the review of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management. The report will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on how the global geospatial information management community can actively contribute to the effective coordination of geospatial activities within the United Nations system.

Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/112, in which it welcomed the report of the Secretariat on the review of United Nations activities in geospatial information and requested the Secretariat to continue its analysis of the United Nations system-wide consultation. A questionnaire has been circulated in order to provide a systematic overview of the existing geospatial resources, activities and governance arrangements of the United Nations system and to enable the Secretariat to report on specific evidence and results to the Committee at its seventh session.

In its report, the Secretariat provides an overview of the existing geospatial resources, activities and governance arrangements within the United Nations system. As noted during the sixth session of the Committee of Experts, since many coordination activities were being carried out on a "best efforts" basis by geospatial practitioners, the current informal collaborative mechanisms required attention by senior management of the United Nations and by the Committee of Experts. The analysis presented provides a basis for including, within the Committee's framework, its consideration of a formal mechanism for geospatial information management activities conducted by the United Nations system.

* E/C.20/2017/1.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Strengthening geospatial information management

Strengthening geospatial information management

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on strengthening geospatial information management. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on how the global geospatial information management community can actively contribute towards strengthening geospatial information management for Member States.

Summary of the report

In July 2016, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2016/27 on strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management, in which it recognized that the Committee of Experts had operated effectively and was well placed to continue to contribute to the work of the United Nations. In the resolution, the Council decided to strengthen and broaden the mandate of the Committee and invited the Committee to report on all matters relating to geography, geospatial information and related topics. It also stressed the need to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management, in capacity-building and norm-setting. The Council noted the increasing role and relevance of the Committee in streamlining the bodies of the Council on geospatial information management matters and requested that the Committee report back to the Council, no later than in five years' time, on the implementation of the resolution.

In the report, prepared with the assistance of the Bureau of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, the Secretariat, cognizant of the request of the Council to report back within five years, informed the Committee of its efforts to take practical and strategic actions to implement the

* E/C.20/2017/1

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resolution and strengthen geospatial information management for Member States. In the report a strategic framework is presented and described as a starting point for discussion towards a strategic plan and road map that will enable the Committee to be better supported by the regional committee architecture and the regional commissions and to continue to work on global policies for geospatial information management in tandem with producing tangible outputs such as norms, handbooks, methodologies, standards and guidelines.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Seventh session
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Item 14 of the provisional agenda*
Marine geospatial information

Marine geospatial information

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on marine geospatial information. The report will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and express its views on the way forward, taking into consideration the importance of reliable, timely and high-quality marine geospatial information in supporting the administration, management and governance of the marine environment.

Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts, in its decision 6/108, recognized the need to consider the marine environment, namely, shorelines, coastal waters, seas and oceans, as a key component of the spatial data infrastructure that underpins the administration and management of land, marine spaces and the national geospatial resources of many littoral Member States. Marine geospatial information will be needed to support the administration, management and governance of the marine and ocean environments to meet the demand for critical analysis when questions arise pertaining to the governance, management and coordination of seas, oceans and resources. Such needs include information on spaces for recreation, telecommunication and transportation and for natural resources yielding food, medicine, energy and minerals. The information gathered will play a vital role in measuring, monitoring and mitigating climate risk in seas and oceans and in supporting national development priorities and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

* E/C.20/2017/1.

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In its report, the Secretariat provides information on the consideration given by the Bureau of the Committee of Experts to strengthening global geospatial information management, including with respect to addressing substantive issues on the marine environment through the establishment of a new working group, in order to ensure that marine geospatial information supports the availability and accessibility of comprehensive location-based information in helping Member States to develop strategic priorities, make decisions and measure and monitor outcomes.

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
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Item 16 of the provisional agenda*
Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, which will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and the associated background document and to express its views on the way forward with regard to strengthening the coordination and coherence of geospatial information management with the Group of Experts, including endorsing principles of cooperation between the two bodies.

Summary of the report

At its sixth session, held in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 6/112, in which it took note of the ongoing work of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to modernize its working methods and strengthen its relationship with the Committee of Experts regarding place names. In the decision, the Bureau of the Committee of Experts was requested to engage in a dialogue with the Group of Experts, with a view to defining an effective relationship between the two bodies and how best to use the opportunity of back-to-back sessions in 2017. The potential synergies and possible areas of collaboration between the Group of Experts and the Committee of Experts were recognized through the adoption, in July 2016, of Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/27 on strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management, particularly with regard to strengthening the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management, capacity-building, norm-setting, data collection, data dissemination and data sharing as critical needs for Member States. In addition, in decision 29/101, adopted at its twenty-ninth

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session, the Group of Experts on Geographical Names encouraged its Bureau to define the relationship between the Group of Experts and the Committee of Experts.

In its report, the Group of Experts details the series of tasks and activities undertaken with the Bureau of the Committee as part of efforts to strengthen collaboration and implement the above-mentioned decisions. The background document on building bridges between the Group of Experts and the Committee of Experts, prepared by the Bureau of the Group of Experts, substantively anchors these activities and includes common principles and a proposed cooperation model for the two bodies. The report before the Committee of Experts also includes information on the first meeting convened between the two Bureaux in February 2017; on the consultative exercise conducted to seek agreement on the common principles and the cooperation model; and on the preparation and staging of back-to-back joint activities in each of the intergovernmental sessions to be held in August 2017. The Committee of Experts is requested to consider and endorse the common principles of cooperation and support future joint activities, including a joint side event on fundamental geospatial data themes and geographical, cultural and political names to be held on the margins of the fifth High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, to be convened in Mexico City in November 2017.